THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SMUGGLING OF EXPLOSIVES AT COASTAL POINTS

†2524. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many of the coastal points in the country have become heaven for smuggling particularly of explosive including RDX and Lethal weapons and sometimes even ship loads of such arsenals are brought to such points ;

(b) if so, what information Government have in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken to prevent smuggling of explosives and lethal weapons along coastal points in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) There have been intelligence reports that attempts to land arms, ammunition, explosives including RDX may be made in coastal areas of the country. Consequently, intensive surveillance and joint sea patrolling by Customs, Police, Navy & Coast Guard has been launched in sensitive areas. The available reports in Ministry of Finance do not indicate such landing has taken place recently.

(c) Anti-smuggling agencies have been strengthened by equipping them with better means to combat smuggling. Anti-smuggling agencies of Central and State Governments are acting in concerted manner to thwart any such attempt to smuggle arms, ammunition, explosives etc.

---

† Previously unstarred Question No. 1706 Transferred from 15-12-1993.

SERVICE RULES OF RURAL BANK STAFF

2525. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) when the amendment of Service Rules and Promotion-cum-Recruitment Rule of Rural Bank staff became due as per Tribunal Award; and

(b) which Sponsoring Banks have failed to submit their views and what action has been taken against them for such failure for nearly one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The amendment of service rules and promotion-cum-recruitment rules of Regional Rural Bank (RRB) staff are not part of the Tribunal Award. Consequent upon the implementation of the Award and recommendations of the Equation Committee, certain changes were to be brought about in service regulations, recruitment and promotion policy for the RRB employees. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) had accordingly constituted a Working Group in September, 1991 with the following terms of reference :

(i) to frame service regulations for all categories of RRBs;

(ii) to frame recruitment and promotion policies in RRBs; and

(iii) any other matter relating to the implementation of the Award of the Tribunal read with Equation Committee Report.

The Working Group submitted its report and its recommendations have been generally accepted by the Government on the advice of NABARD. As a result of the acceptance of these recommendations, action on the following points was required to be taken :—

(a) Issue of instructions clarifying various issues relating to pay scales,

allowances and other benefits to RRB employees;

(b) Framing of RRBs (Appointment and promotion of officers and other employees) Rules and issuing of notification under Section 29 of the RRBs Act, 1976;

(c) Framing of Staff Service Regulations to be adopted by the Board of Directors of RRBs and issuing of notification under Section 30 of the RRBs Act, 1976.

Instructions in regard to (a) above have already been issued by NABARD on 20-3-93. In regard to (b) and (c) above, draft of the Rules and Regulations have been prepared. Sponsor Banks of RRBs were requested on 8-4-93 to offer their comments, if any, so that necessary modifications|improvements could be incorporated before these Rules|Regulations are formally notified. Comments from 16 sponsor banks have been received so far. The sponsor banks who have not yet sent their comments were reminded to send the same by 15th December, 1993.

PROMOTION IN RURAL BANKS

2526. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has allowed to continue the promotions from Officer to Senior Manager|Area Manager in the Rural Banks in their letter to Sponsoring Banks on 8th April, 1993;

(b) if so, how Central Bank of India has taken plea of further instruction from NABARD for such promotion in case of Mandala Balaghat Grameen Bank; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government NABARD ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) advised all Sponsor Banks of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) vide its letter dated 8-4-93 inter-alia that consequent upon the abolition of the posts of Senior Clerk and Field Supervisor in the RRBs with effect from 1-9-1987, no promotion can be effected from Subordinate to clerical cadre and from clerical to officer cadre unless statutory Rules in this regard are amended. It also advised the Sponsor Banks that RRBs may effect promotions from Officers Scale I to Area Manager|Senior Manager equated with Officers of Scale II of the Sponsor Banks, after they (Sponsor Banks) are satisfied about the necessity of such promotions. They shall, however be guided by the instructions issued by NABARD regarding the criteria for creation of Scale II posts, the eligibility etc.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

IMPORT OF SOYA OIL FROM U.S.

2527. SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item published in the Economic Times of 4th October, 1993 under the caption "US Soya Oil arrives";

(b) if so, the quantity imported and unloaded at Bombay|Kandla, Calcutta|Madras Ports till date and the amount credited to the National Renewal Fund so far ?

(c) by when the next shipment is expected and the details thereof;

(d) whether Minister of Civil Supplies has recommended that fresh imports be unloaded at Madras Port so as to cater to the requirements of Vanaspati Units|Refineries in the South Zone; and